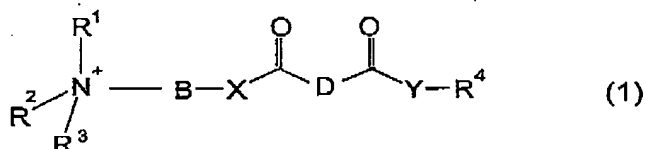


Attorney's Docket: 2003DE411Serial No.: 10/783,188Art Unit 1621

Response to First Office Action mailed 08/09/2006

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.(Previously Presented) A method for inhibiting gas hydrate formation in a mixture of hydrocarbon and water, said method comprising adding to the mixture a compound of formula (1)



where

R^1, R^2 are each independently C_1 - to C_{22} -alkyl, C_2 - to C_{22} -alkenyl, C_6 - to C_{30} -aryl or C_7 - to C_{30} -alkylaryl,

R^3 is C_1 - to C_{22} -alkyl, C_2 - to C_{22} -alkenyl, C_6 - to C_{30} -aryl or C_7 - to C_{30} -alkylaryl, $-\text{CHR}^5-\text{COO}^-$ or $-\text{O}^-$,

R^4 is M, hydrogen or an organic radical having from 1 to 100 carbon atoms,

B is straight-chain or branched C_1 - to C_{30} -alkylene group,

D is an organic radical having from 1 to 600 carbon atoms,

X, Y are each independently O or NR^6 ,

R^5, R^6 are each independently hydrogen, C_1 - to C_{22} -alkyl, C_2 - to C_{22} -alkenyl, C_6 - to C_{30} -aryl or C_7 - to C_{30} -alkylaryl, and

M is a cation.

2.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein B contains hydroxyl groups.

Attorney's Docket: 2003DE411Serial No.: 10/783.188Art Unit 1621Response to First Office Action mailed 08/09/2006

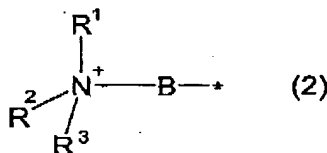
3.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein B is a C₂- to C₄-alkylene group.

4.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein R¹ and R² are each independently an alkyl or alkenyl group of from 2 to 14 carbon atoms.

5.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein R³ is an alkyl or alkenyl group having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

6.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein R⁵ and R⁶ are hydrogen.

7.(Previously Presented) The method of claim, wherein R⁴ is a radical of the formula (2)



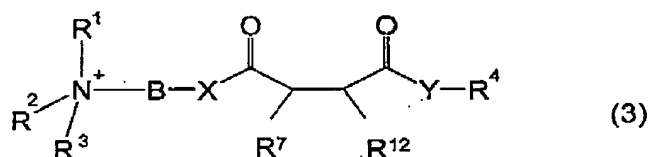
where R¹, R², R³ and B are each as defined in claim 1.

8.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein D is a C₂- to C₅₀-alkylene or C₂- to C₅₀-alkenylene group.

Attorney's Docket: 2003DE411Serial No.: 10/783,188Art Unit 1621Response to First Office Action mailed 08/09/2006

9.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein D is derived from substituted succinic acid derivatives having from 10 to 100 carbon atoms.

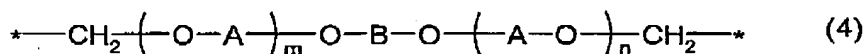
10.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein D is a radical of the formula (3)



where

R^7 and R^{12} are each either hydrogen or a C_2 - to C_{100} -alkyl or C_2 - to C_{100} -alkenyl radical which is obtainable as an oligomer of C_2 - to C_8 -alkenes and may be straight-chain or branched, with the proviso that exactly one of the R^7 and R^{12} radicals is hydrogen, and R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , X, Y and B are each as defined in claim 1.

11.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein D is a radical of the formula (4)



where A is a C_2 - to C_4 -alkylene group which may be straight-chain or

Attorney's Docket: 2003DE411

Serial No.: 10/783,188

Art Unit 1621

Response to First Office Action mailed 08/09/2006

branched, m and n are each independently a number in the range from 0 to

30 and B is as defined in claim 1.